

psychologists cannot be recognized nor appropriately compensated for excellence or for taking on additional responsibilities such as running treatment programs.

In effect, the current system for hiring psychologists in the VHA supports mediocrity, not excellence and mastery. Our veterans with behavioral disorders and mental health problems are deserving of better psychological care from more experienced professionals than they are currently receiving.

A hybrid title 38 appointment authority for psychologists would help ameliorate the recruitment and retention problems in several ways. The length of time it takes to recruit psychologists could be abbreviated by eliminating the requirement for applicants to be rated by the Office of Personnel Management. This would also facilitate the recruitment of applicants who are not recent VA interns by reducing the amount of time between identifying a desirable applicant and being able to offer that applicant a position.

It is expected that problems in retention of behavioral science experts will be greatly alleviated with the implementation of a hybrid title 38 system for VA psychologists, primarily through offering financial incentives for psychologists to pursue professional development with the VHA. Achievements that would merit salary increases under title 38 should include such activities as assuming supervisory responsibilities for clinical programs, implementing innovative clinical treatments that improve the effectiveness and/or efficiency of patient care, making significant contributions to the science of psychology, earning the ABPP diplomate status, and becoming a fellow of the American Psychological Association.

Currently, psychologists are the only doctoral level health care providers in the VHA who are not included in title 38. This is, without question, a significant factor in the recruitment and retention difficulties that I have addressed. Ultimately, an across-the-board salary increase might be necessary. However, the conversion of psychologists to a hybrid title 38, as proposed by this amendment, would provide relief for these difficulties and enhance the quality of care for our Nations' veterans and their families.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 82

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVISION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF CLINICAL AND COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking

out "who hold diplomas as diplomates in psychology from an accrediting authority approved by the Secretary".

(b) CERTAIN OTHER APPOINTMENTS.—Section 7405(a) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking out "Certified or" and inserting in lieu thereof "Clinical or counseling psychologists, certified or"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking out "Certified or" and inserting in lieu thereof "Clinical or counseling psychologists, certified or".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall begin to make appointments of clinical and counseling psychologists in the Veterans Health Administration under section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)), not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.●

RULES OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, pursuant to rule XXVI(2) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask that the rules of the Appropriations Committee for the 104th Congress be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. These rules were adopted by the full committee membership on January 11, 1995.

There being no objection, the rules were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES¹

I. Meetings:

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chairman.

II. Quorums:

1. Reporting a bill. A majority of the members must be present for the reporting of a bill.

2. Other business. For the purpose of transacting business other than reporting a bill or taking testimony, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Taking testimony. For the purpose of taking testimony, other than sworn testimony, by the Committee or any subcommittee, one member of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony by the Committee, three members shall constitute a quorum, and for the taking of sworn testimony by any subcommittee, one member shall constitute a quorum.

III. Proxies—

Except for the reporting of a bill, votes may be cast by proxy when any member so requests.

IV. Attendance of staff members at closed sessions—

Attendance of Staff Members at closed sessions of the Committee shall be limited to those members of the Committee Staff that have a responsibility associated with the matter being considered at such meeting. This rule may be waived by unanimous consent.

V. Broadcasting and photographing of Committee hearing—

The Committee or any of its subcommittees may permit the photographing and broadcast of open hearings by television and/or radio. However, if any member of a sub-

committee objects to the photographing or broadcasting of an open hearing, the question shall be referred to the Full Committee for its decision.

VI. Availability of subcommittee reports—

To the extent possible, when the bill and report of any subcommittee are available, they shall be furnished to each member of the Committee thirty-six hours prior to the Committee's consideration of said bill and report.

VII. Amendments and report language—

To the extent possible, amendments and report language intended to be proposed by Senators at Full Committee markups shall be provided in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member and the appropriate Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member twenty-four hours prior to such markups.

VIII. Points of order—

Any member of the Committee who is floor manager of an appropriation bill, is hereby authorized to make points of order against any amendment offered in violation of the Senate Rules on the floor of the Senate to such appropriation bill.●

COMMENDING THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Jewish Federation of Greater Bridgeport for their extraordinary efforts to provide for the Jewish population in the State of Connecticut.

For nearly 55 years, the Jewish Federation of Greater Bridgeport has served and represented Jews in need in its service cities and towns of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, and Trumbull by providing health, social, and educational opportunities to their citizens through agencies such as the Greater Bridgeport Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Home for the Elderly, Jewish Family Service, and Hillel Academy and Merkaz Community Hebrew High School.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Bridgeport, through the continuing national work of the United Jewish Appeal, has aided both with social and humanitarian services countless hundreds of thousands of Jews in Israel and in 40 countries the world over.

The tide of peace in 1994 has rolled in and washed over the nations and peoples of the Middle East as never before, witnessed by the signing of a treaty ensuring peaceful cohabitation in the region between the people of Jordan and Israel, limited self-rule of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, and the final emigration of Jews from Syria while talks continue between those two nations toward a comprehensive peace.

The annual combined super Sunday telethon campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Bridgeport, and the United Jewish Appeal will take place on Sunday, February 5, 1995, in order to raise vitally needed funds to continue providing these worthwhile services here at home, in Israel, and around the world.●

¹ Adopted pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the "Standing Rules of the Senate."